

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Exercises in the Area of the Wittstock Field Training Grounds 25X1EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 19 April 1955REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

1. At 2200 on 20 March 1955, a column of 20 prime movers coming from the direction of Zechliner Strasse with 100-mm AT guns, 2 T-34s and 31 trucks drove toward Dossow. 25X1
- On 21 March, Forst Neuendorf (east of Dossow) and the Paulshof-Jaegerphuhl-Hammelstall area (east of Badow) was heavily occupied by troops. The Gadov-Dossow road was blocked off from 1200 until 1900. Fifteen trucks were identified in the area east of Gadov. 25X1
- At 0330 on 22 March, a column of 6 tanks of a new type and about 90 trucks drove toward the training grounds from the direction of Zootzen-Dossow. At 0730, soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and trucks assembled in the area of the Wehe Hills. Tents of a headquarters and numerous trucks were identified in Forest Sections No 116 and 117 and in areas of new plantings. Six new type tanks and many trucks were seen in Forest Section No 101. At 1830, approximately 60 trucks coming from the direction of the Zechliner Strasse with 15 100-mm AT guns and soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets moved toward Dossow. 25X1
2. On 22 March, troops and material assembled in the area of Zechlin village Rheinsberg and Frankendorf. material and motor vehicle identified: 25X1
- 20 JS tanks
48 T-34 tanks
32 heavy and medium SP guns
- 30 guns with prime movers, 60 medium AA guns, 20 heavy AT guns with prime movers, 60 medium AA guns, 60 light AA guns of about 20 mm incl. guns of armored personnel carriers, 12 RL, 24 armored scout cars and 80 armored personnel carriers. Most of the vehicles had white camouflage paint. 25X1

After 1700, the units assembled and left toward Neuruppin-Rheinsberg-Zechlin and Raegelin.

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3. In the afternoon on 21 March, heavy drum fire was heard from the direction of Dranse-Schweinrich for approximately 30 minutes. [redacted] the heath between Sewekow and Berlinchen (north of Dranse) was occupied by groups on 21 March which launched a practice attack toward Neuruppin. After 22 March, loadings were begun in Wittstock and Dranse during daytime and at night.

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At 1800 on 23 March, 8 AT guns, 2 tanks, 4 trucks carrying mortars and approximately 37 other trucks were entrained at the Wittstock railroad station.

4. From 23 to 25 March, two shipments with tanks, AT guns and trucks were entrained at the Wittstock railroad station. Five shipments with tanks, guns, mortars, AA guns and trucks coming from the direction of Dranse passed through the Wittstock railroad station and proceeded toward Pritzwalk-Meyenburg.

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Comment. Information received indicated that the 12th Gds Tank Div conducted a winter practice in the eastern sector of the Wittstock field training grounds and farther to the east from 15 to 22 March. During the same period, the 18th Mecg Div also conducted a winter exercise in the north and western part of the troop training grounds.

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[redacted] According to the present report, [redacted] it appears possible that the two divisions conducted a joint exercise in the entire area of the troop training grounds. This assumption is supported by reports on troop movements, according to which major elements of the 18th Mecg Div were entrained for shipment to their posts at the stations of Rheinsberg, Lindow, Gransee and Fuerstenberg upon completion of the exercises. Other information indicated that these practices were held with air force units participating. The drum fire mentioned in paragraph 3 may have been confused with bombing practices.

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